

# Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging Minutes

Regular Meeting  
April 14, 2022 - 1:00 pm  
Online meeting

**Members Present:** Janet Court, Helene Gauthier, Angelique Kingsbury, Melinda Ludwiczak, and Hazel Tanner (Quorum: 4)

**Members Absent:** Thomas Weist (Secretary), Florence Castner, Paulette Will, and Beth Winnick

**Staff :** Christina Kendrick

## Call To Order

1. Roll Call.

### Quorum Present

2. Adoption of the agenda.

### Action Taken: Adopted

3. Acceptance of minutes

[Mar 10, 2022 Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging](#)

### Action Taken: Accepted

## Discussion

Advisory Committee on Aging

**Documenter name: Chris Hinze**

Date: April 14, 2022

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## Summary:

- The Advisory Committee on Aging will be resuming in-person meetings beginning in May. Their meetings will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 1200 S Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403.
- The committee will be tabling at the upcoming Minneapolis Community Connections Conference on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the committee and connect with the committee members. Applications to join the committee will be available for those interested.

## **Documenter's Notebook:**

### ***Highlights and follow-up questions***

- Will the Advisory Committee on Aging be playing an active role in planning the “Sharing Our Wisdom” art exhibit, or is that just individual members reporting their individual efforts?
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## **Notes**

[00:00] Meeting commenced and roll call taken. Members present were: Janet Court, Helene Gauthier, Angelique Kingsbury, Melinda Ludwiczak and Hazel Tanner(Quorum: 4). Christina Kendrick, City of Minneapolis staff member assigned to the Advisory Committee on Aging, was also present.

Ludwiczak moved to approve the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Court seconded. There was no vote taken but it appears the Committee believed they had approved the minutes.

## **Returning to in-person meetings**

- Kendrick announced that the return to in person meetings will begin in May. City Council has already begun in person meetings.
- Kendrick announced that Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 1200 S Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403, is letting the committee hold meetings in their space so long as the meetings are posted publicly ahead of time. These meetings are open to the public.
- Kendrick is unsure if there will be a virtual option once in person meetings resume - she is going to be looking into it.
- Kendrick will also be looking into bus and Metro Mobility accessibility to get to Westminster.
- The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of moving back to in person meetings. On the one hand, they won't be as accessible to folks who cannot attend in-person meetings. On the other hand, not everyone has the ability to use technology, especially elders and especially elders where English is not their first language. Further, people may be more engaged and present with in-person meetings.
- The city is not mandating masks, nor is Westminster so long as you are not around a child under the age of 5. The committee informally agreed on a mask-optional policy.

## **Update on conference planning**

- Kendrick gave an update on her efforts to plan for the Minneapolis Community Connections Conference, which the committee will be tabling at. The conference will be taking place on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

- Kendrick reported that she is working on collecting pictures of elders, coming up with ideas for the table, securing the necessary tabling items, and creating a factsheet with information about the committee. Applications to join the committee will also be printed and provided.
- When asked about whether committee members tabling the event can promote other elder-related programs they are involved in, Kendrick said yes and believed this also would be a good way to show the expertise and connection that the committee members have with elders in the community. This may help to show potential applicants that they, too, have a perspective to offer the committee.

## Ethics training

[00:39]

- Kendrick will be evaluating which committee members still need to complete their ethics training and will follow up next week with those who need to do this.
- Kendrick believes everyone on the committee is up to date on taking their oaths.

## Open discussion

Kendrick opened up the floor for committee members to check-in and voice any committee-related topics or just general personal well-being.

- Gauthier gave updates on what Minneapolis Community Education is doing:
  - (1) [The Music in the Parks](#) series will begin on May 30th at the Lake Harriet Bandshell.
  - (2) Gauthier and Kingsbury received notice that they (ambiguous which entity this is in reference to) received a Wellness Grant for the “Sharing Our Wisdom” art project. This project works with diverse seniors in four locations in Minneapolis to show where they come from and share their stories. The art exhibit will begin in early Fall 2022 and go until Christmas.
    - One committee member asked whether Latinx elders will be engaged in this project given the four selected locations aren’t in Latinx communities. Gauthier said there may be a chance to combine the two Northside locations and add in a Southside location, but no certainty with that. The locations that were selected already had elders who were ready to participate in the project.
  - (3) Gauthier is looking into creating a community technology training program to educate the public on things such as protecting yourself from fraud, understanding internet access, and how to manage your photos and documents on your computer.
- Kingsbury gave an update on public safety in downtown Minneapolis. She stated that there seems to be more people coming in for work and for conferences, and this has created a safer feeling atmosphere on the streets. She also stated there is more of a law enforcement presence, but it doesn’t feel like a “looming” presence. Additionally, there seems to be more of a presence of community workers and peacekeepers.
  - Kingsbury has noticed an increase in public fentanyl use. This caused the downtown Target store to close its restrooms to the public after issues with drug use (note: a single family restroom is available for use but you must ask an employee to get in). Kingsbury said the situation seems to be more under control now.
  - [00:60] Kingsbury reported that the elders she has spoken with still don’t necessarily feel safe walking on Nicollet Mall, but the situation is improving.

- Court gave a report on the environment in Uptown, which continues to be very empty. It seems that when Uptown experienced an uptick in crime, many homeowners and business owners left town. She said she did not notice much crime. She did note seeing several sidewalk slabs that posed a tripping hazard, and it was noted that a fall, especially when you are elderly, can change your entire life.
- Ludwiczak spoke about a few ideas for additional funding and resources for the “Sharing Our Wisdom” art project. One of those ideas included partnering with Minneapolis libraries who may have extra Legacy funds available.

[00:73] Gauthier left the meeting about a minute before it was adjourned due to a time restraint. Kingsbury moved to adjourn the meeting. Ludwiczak seconded. There was no vote. Meeting adjourned.

### **Adjournment**